(c) the final view taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No such communication has been received from CII.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in load shedding after privatization in Delhi

3140. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that after privatization of electricity in Delhi load shedding has been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is fact that meters installed by the private companies are generally very fast;

(d) the steps taken by Government to check these faults and the exact number of cases of faulty/fast meters were found during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the available information, the load shedding in Delhi has not increased after privatization and has been reduced as per details given below:

Years million	Energy consumed in million units	Load shedding in units
2001-02	18448	563
2002-03	19667	452
2003-04	20385	229
2004-05	20810	177
2005-06	21184	321

(c) and (d) The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission had conducted a Meter Testing Drive between October, 2005 to January, 2006 wherein 536 meters were tested and only 4 meters were found to be fast beyond the norms stipulated under the Indian Electricity Rules, 1956.

National Science and Research Foundation

3141. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to form a world class "National Science and Research Foundation";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Foundation would be monitored by the scientific community on the lines of National Science Fund of the United States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCINENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A recommendation has been made by the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) for setting up an autonomous National Science and Engineering Research Foundation on the lines of the National Science Foundation of USA. The proposal is presently at the stage of inter-Ministerial consultations.

Transgenic Crops in the country

3142. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has now become a major player in the field of transgenic crops by achieving coverage area of 50,000 hectares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India had hiked its Bt. Cotton area coverage by 400 per cent between 2002-04;

(c) if so, the percentage of increase in Andhra Pradesh since introduction of Bt. Cotton in the country; and

(d) the manner in which India is planning to galvanise the global biotech crop market in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, according to the information published by International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) in 2005, India is placed at seventh position by achieving cultivation of Bt. Cotton in area of 1.3 million hectares during 2005 out of 21 countries cultivating transgenic crops globally.

(b) Yes, it is a fact that Bt. Cotton cultivation area had increased by 400 per cent between year 2002 to 2004 and 160 per cent from 2004 to 2005 in the country as per the report published by ISAAA.

(c) Bt. Cotton cultivation in Andhra Pradesh has increased by about 600 per cent by the year 2005 since its introduction in 2002, as per the seed sales data available with the Department.